(b) Housing is a State subject and all housing schemes are implemented by the State Governments according to their priority and requirements. However the Central Government has, launched a new scheme for provision of shelter to the pavement dwellers, in the major metropolitan cities. Under this scheme, the Central Govt, gives grants-in-aid at the rate of Rs. 4000- per household for identified pavement dwellers' for construction of individual dwelling units_ The Scheme also provides for construction of night shelters and pay & use toilets. During the yea,- ! 988-89 grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 2.99 crores have been released for the implementation of the scheme in the cities of Calcutta, Hyderabad 'and Madrbs. This will "benefit 6410 pave'rnent dwellers'.

Establishment of Consumer Councils and Courts at the Centre and at District levels-

518. SHRl PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 envisages formation of Conslimer Councils and Courts at the Centre and at the District level;

(b) what is the number of such Councils and Courts that have been established so far; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementing the scheme?

THE DEPUTy MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA).- (a) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 envisages formation of Consumer Protection Council at the Centre and the State Level and redressal machinery at national. State and district level. It does not envisage formation of Consumer Protection Council at District level.

(b) and (c) The Centra] Government has constituted the Central Consumer Protection Council and the Naional Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission •which have started functioning_ The State Government/UT Administrations are responsible for setting up of State level Consumer Protection Council$_s$ Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (State Commission) and Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum (District Forum). As per information available, so far, 28 Statesl UTs have set up the State level Consumer Protection Council. Redressal machinery have started functioning in 7 States/UTs. 8 S ates/UTs. have notified the State Commission/District Forums. In addition, Central Government has conveyed its approval to 5 States to set up this machinery.

PDS facilities to residents of unauthorised c Bionics

539. SHRi PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:' Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES .be pleased to state;

(a) whether the basic purpose of intro--educing Public Distribution System is to provide . certain essential commodities at subsidised rates to the public, particula ly the poorest of the poor;

(b) if so, , whether Government are aware that the most vulnerable section; of society are not able to avail of this benefits as they are not entitled to get a 'ration card' in the absence of a regular residential address in an authorised colony, etc.;

(c) whether Government have considered the necessity of extending Public Distribution System facility to those poor people who are citizens of India but are not fortunate enough to live in any recognised colony and go under the definition of "pavement dwellers"; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BATTHA); (a) to (d) The purpose of the Public Distribution System is to provide certain essential commodities at reasonable r te; to the public, including vulnerable eei: is of the society, as also to act as an .miinflationary measure. The implementation of the PDS being the responsibility of the

State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, th$_e$ powers for deciding the rules governing the issue of ration cards rest with them.

Conditions of the Jhuggi Dwellers of Chandigarh

520. SHRi PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL; Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jhuggi colonies in the Union Territory of Chandigarh and that of Jhuggis and residents in each of these colonies:

Ob) what was tbe population of these colonies during each of the last three years; and

(c) what are the details of the basic civic amenities like water, electricity, schoolldispensary provided to these colonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Implementation of Crash Housing Programme

521. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI; Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether crash Housing Programme is not being implemented by Government in loiter and spirit;

1 b) if so. the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed *to* be taken to ensure that it is implemented expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(.b) and (c) Do not arise-

Surplus stock of rice and wheat

522. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the surplus stock of rice and wheat according to the latest figures;

(b) whether the Public Distribution System is sufficiently and properly geared to undertake effective supply of the essential commodities to people aH over the country especially in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The stocks of rice and wheat with the Food Corporation of India as on 1.4.89 were of the order of 38.72 lakh tonnes and 23.98 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) and (c) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is properly geared to arrange effective supply of essential commodities of PDS items to the people alt over the country including rural areas. Supplies of PDS items are nevertheless, supplemental in nature and not meant to provide cent per cent requirements of the population.

As on 31.12.1988, there were over 3 .5 lakh fair price shops spread all over the country, of which nearly 76 per cent were in rural areas. In the year, 1988, over 15 million tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) were lifted by the States/UTs from the central poof for supply through the Public Distribution System.

Assistance to Tribal Farmers for meeting Natural Calamities

523. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government: give any assistance under any scheme to tribal farmers for meeting natural cala 1 mities;